

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
January 29, 2014**

7:00 P.M.

*2nd Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186*

Members Present: Peter S. Eltringham, Chairman, Ed Moore, Vice Chairman, R. Holder Trumbo, Tony Tedeschi, John Green, Matthew Sheedy and Mark Nesbit

Members Absent: Adrienne Garreau and Jeffrey Walker

Guests Present: Bob Lee, Marshall District Planning Commission Member; Mary Root, Fauquier County Architectural Review Board; and Ben Davidson, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

Staff Present: Kimberley Fogle, Chris Pettit, Don Del Rosso, Wendy Wheatcraft and Meredith Meixner

1. Election of Officers

ACTION: On motion made by Holder Trumbo and seconded by John Green, it was moved to elect Peter Eltringham as Chairman. On motion made by Tony Tedeschi and seconded by Holder Trumbo, it was moved to elect Ed Moore as Vice Chairman. The motions carried unanimously.

2. Approval of December 11, 2013 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On motion made by Tony Tedeschi and seconded by John Green, it was moved to approve the December 11, 2013 Committee Meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Work Program 2014

Mr. Eltringham expressed the need for the committee to maintain an ongoing list or inventory of larger tasks to be completed by the Transportation Committee during 2014. He suggested adding: the Opal flyover; Rt. 29 access and VDOT's plans; Corridors of Statewide Significance, such as Rt. 17/29 and related issues; the previous list created for the Bealeton area; Rt. 28 safety study; and Rt. 602, Rogues Road progress.

Ms. Fogle suggested they add the update to the Transportation Plan within the Comprehensive Plan.

ACTION: Staff will compile a list and place on the February agenda to be discussed.

4. Adoption of Schedule

ACTION: The committee postponed action until the March meeting.

5. Opal Service District Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Ms. Fogle provided an update to the committee members of the Opal Steering Committee's October 8, 2013 draft plan with comments from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Planning Commission, and the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Greenway Advisory Committee (PBGAC). She highlighted some of the recommendations, including the removal of the proposed addition of approximately 100 acres from the draft Opal Service District Plan, deleting the arrows indicating future connections and designating the parallel roads as two-lane boulevards with on-street parking.

The Transportation Committee members did not have additional suggestions and Mr. Eltringham reiterated the need to keep the review process open with VDOT.

6. Opal Interchange

Mr. Nesbit discussed the issues related to the new Opal interchange. He provided an operational update that lists actions completed, actions that are under way, and other options being considered to improve the safety and traffic flow at the intersection of Route 29 and Route 17.

Mr. Eltringham requested that this item be kept on the agenda in order for the committee to continue to receive updates.

7. Old Business

- **Route 17 (Marshall to Warrenton) Traffic Calming – Scott Filling Request**

Mr. Trumbo explained that at the previous meeting, he made the request that VDOT research further what requirements there are for permanent speed display signs.

Mr. Nesbit replied that it would entail a VDOT policy change and that there is no law prohibiting those types of signs. He added that it has been the engineering practice and policy for several years.

Mr. Trumbo asked if VDOT would review a request from the County and Mr. Nesbit answered that it would be researched and responded to.

Mr. Sheedy inquired about the temporary speed display signs that were displayed recently. Mr. Nesbit replied that they were up for about a month from December 2013 to January 2014.

Mr. Eltringham posed the question of where the signs along Route 17 should be placed and Mr. Trumbo stated that the decision would have to be made after obtaining input from the residents.

Mr. Eltringham asked what process the committee should follow to make a request and Mr. Nesbit noted that a letter signed by the Board of Supervisors should be sent to the District Office.

ACTION: The Transportation Committee supported the Board drafting a request to VDOT requesting the placement of permanent speed display signs along Route 17.

- **Paving Unpaved Roads**

Mr. Pettit summarized that the committee has had the opportunity to review the list of unpaved roads at previous meetings and due to inclement weather, VDOT has been unable to provide updated traffic counts.

Mr. Nesbit indicated that VDOT will provide updated traffic counts for the list of unpaved roads by the February meeting.

Mr. Moore stated that Supervisor Sherbeyn would like to add a section of Green Road (Rt. 674), between Old Marsh Road and Balls Mill Road, to the list.

Mr. Green requested to remove Lees Mill Road from the list.

Mr. Nesbit noted that Heddings Road (Rt. 794) and Kines Road (Rt. 692) have been completed and can be removed from the list.

Mr. Pettit stated, that after road counts have been performed and the list is revised, staff will send out letters to the residents along those roads asking for feedback. The Transportation Committee members will then further revise the list and recommend their addition to the Secondary Six-Year Plan which will be placed on the Board of Supervisors agenda in May 2014.

ACTION: VDOT will provide updated traffic counts for the roads on the revised list at the next meeting for discussion.

8. *New Business*

- **Waterloo Bridge**

Ms. Wheatcraft provided an overview of the historic significance of the Waterloo Bridge.

Ms. Root reviewed the comments made by the Fauquier County Architectural Review Board and distributed a handout with their recommendations for preserving the historic bridge.

Mr. Moore spoke in support of rehabilitating the bridge.

Mr. Eltringham noted that the Committee also received a letter from the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) with their position supporting the bridge's rehabilitation.

Mr. Nesbit stated that VDOT has an upcoming meeting with both Fauquier County and Culpeper County's administrators and will not proceed without input from both counties. He further stated that VDOT has provided a document with a brief history, the current condition and five preliminary options for the future of the bridge.

Mr. Green expressed his concern for spending funds on the bridge if the need from the local area is minimal.

9. *Citizens' Time*

Mr. Scott Filling spoke in appreciation for staff coordinating an upcoming meeting with VDOT regarding Route 17 safety improvements and expressed his hopes that there will be more data gathered by the February or March meeting. Mr. Filling stated that he sent Mr. Nesbit an email with questions regarding Fauquier County Code 13.5-3D on Engine Braking/Jake Brakes and whether signs could be posted on Route 17.

Mr. Nesbit responded that VDOT developed a position approximately ten years ago that they would not install signs prohibiting the use of engine braking. Mr. Filling requested that VDOT provide the reasoning why they have taken that position and include it in the email response.

Mr. Trumbo asked Mr. Nesbit to clarify if it is because VDOT does not want county code signs in a state right-of-way. Mr. Nesbit replied no, that if the sign were not against VDOT policy, then it would be allowed. He added that VDOT will not allow a county sign to be placed if it does not follow their policy and would be in conflict with VDOT's position.

Mr. Eltringham remarked that if there is a county ordinance that is against that, then it should be researched with counsel. Mr. Trumbo indicated that the Sheriff is already looking into the situation and researching in order to develop an approach to enforcement and hopes to have an answer by the February Transportation Committee meeting.

Mr. Eltringham said he would like this added to the February meeting.

Mr. Filling voiced his frustration that this same process could have taken place back in 2002 when he first brought his concerns to the Transportation Committee. He continued that if there is an ordinance, then the truck drivers need to be aware and a sign would at least help to bring this to their attention. Mr. Filling noted that in his discussions with the Sheriff he indicated it is enforceable.

Ms. Fogle suggested it would be helpful to know if there are other counties in our district or throughout the state that have the same regulations as Fauquier and maybe VDOT has taken this position because there aren't that many. Mr. Trumbo added that the County Attorney can search other county ordinances statewide.

10. Other Items

Ms. Fogle informed the Committee that the Federal Office of Management & Budget has designated the New Baltimore/Warrenton area as an Urban Cluster based on the 2010 Census reflecting the level of density. This area will fall under a metropolitan planning organization called the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board.

Mr. Green inquired about the status of VDOT's research on intersection improvements to O'Keefe Road and Route 29. Mr. Nesbit replied that VDOT will install stop bars and pavement markings at the intersection. Mr. Green commented that it would help if the signs along Route 29 were moved. Mr. Eltringham also reminded the committee that they already asked staff and/or VDOT to report back on the procedures and costs of moving the utility poles in the right-of-way. Mr. Nesbit agreed to look at the sight lines and signs himself and staff agreed to look into the costs of having the poles in the right-of-way moved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 26, 2014.**